

ENTERED

June 03, 2025

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern

District of

Texas

United States of America

)

v.

)

Victor Norris Ellison

)

Defendant

)

Case No. 4:25-cr-00245-14

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

Part I - Eligibility for Detention

Upon the

A. Motion of the Government for a detention hearing pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) because the defendant is charged with:

- (1)** a crime of violence, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591, or an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed; **or**
- (2)** an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death; **or**
- (3)** an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801–904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951–971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501–70508); **or**
- (4)** any felony if such person has been convicted of two or more offenses described in Subparagraphs (1) through (3) of this paragraph or two or more of such offenses if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination thereof; **or**
- (5)** any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence but involves **(a)** a minor victim; **(b)** the possession of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921); **(c)** any other dangerous weapon; or **(d)** a failure to register under 18 U.S.C. § 2250;

OR

B. Motion of the Government or the Court's own motion for a detention hearing pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2) because the case involves:

- (1)** a serious risk that the defendant will flee if released; **or**
- (2)** a serious risk that the defendant will obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice or threaten, injure, or intimidate, or attempt to threaten, injure, or intimidate a prospective witness or juror if released.

The Court found that the Government established one or more of the factors above, held a detention hearing, and found that detention is warranted. This order sets forth the Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i), in addition to any other findings made at the hearing.

Part II - Findings of Fact and Law as to Presumptions under § 3142(e)

A. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(2) (previous violator): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community because the following conditions have been met:

(1) the defendant is charged with one of the following crimes described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1):

(a) a crime of violence, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591, or an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed; **or**

(b) an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death; **or**

(c) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801–904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951–971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501–70508); **or**

(d) any felony if such person has been convicted of two or more offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph, or two or more State or local offenses that would have been offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination of such offenses; **or**

(e) any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence that involves:

(i) a minor victim; (ii) the possession or use of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921); (iii) any other dangerous weapon; or (iv) a failure to register under 18 U.S.C. § 2250; **and**

(2) the defendant has been convicted of a federal offense that is described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or of a State or local offense that would have been such an offense if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed; **and**

(3) the offense described in paragraph (2) above for which the defendant has been convicted was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a federal, State, or local offense; **and**

(4) a period of not more than five years has elapsed since the date of conviction, or the release of the defendant from imprisonment, for the offense described in paragraph (2) above, whichever is later.

B. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(3) (narcotics, firearm, other offenses): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community because there is probable cause to believe that the defendant committed one or more of the following offenses:

(1) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801–904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951–971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46 (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501–70508);

(2) an offense under 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c), 956(a), or 2332b;

(3) an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed;

(4) an offense under Chapter 77 of Title 18 (18 U.S.C. §§ 1581–1597) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more is prescribed; **or**

(5) an offense involving a minor victim under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1201, 1591, 2241, 2242, 2244(a)(1), 2245, 2251, 2251A, 2252(a)(1), 2252(a)(2), 2252(a)(3), 2252A(a)(1), 2252A(a)(2), 2252A(a)(3), 2252A(a)(4), 2260, 2421, 2422, 2423, or 2425.

C. Application of Any Presumption Established Above

The defendant has not rebutted the presumption.

OR

The defendant has rebutted the presumption.

Part III - Analysis and Statement of the Reasons for Detention

After considering any applicable presumption, the nature and circumstances of the defendant's alleged conduct, the defendant's history and characteristics, the other factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g), the information presented at the detention hearing, and the available conditions of release under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c), the Court concludes that the defendant must be detained pending trial because the Government has proven:

- By clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community.
- By a preponderance of evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required.

The reasons for detention include the following checked items (*After this list, add any additional items or explanations as needed to comply with the requirement for a written statement of reasons under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i).*):

- The offense charged is a crime of violence, a violation of § 1591, a federal crime of terrorism, or involves a minor victim or a controlled substance, firearm, explosive, or destructive device.
- Weight of evidence against the defendant is strong.
- Subject to lengthy period of incarceration if convicted.
- Lack of significant family or other ties to the community.
- Significant family or other ties outside the United States.
- Lack of legal status in the United States.
- Subject to removal or deportation after serving any period of incarceration.
- Lack of stable residence.
- Lack of stable employment.
- Lack of financially responsible sureties.
- Prior attempt(s) to evade law enforcement.
- Use of alias(es) or false documents.
- History of alcohol or substance abuse.
- Prior criminal history.
- History of violence or use of weapons.
- Prior violations of probation, parole, or supervised release.
- Prior failure to appear in court as ordered.
- On probation, parole, and/or release pending trial, sentence appeal, or completion of the sentence at the time of the alleged offense.
- Participation in criminal activity while on probation, parole, or supervision.
- The defendant's release poses serious danger to any person or the community.

OTHER REASONS OR FURTHER EXPLANATION:

The Court does not find that Defendant Victor Norris Ellison poses a risk of non-appearance in this case. But Defendant's criminal history clearly reflects that his release would pose a risk of danger that cannot reasonably be mitigated by any conditions.

First, Defendant has multiple prior convictions for drug-related offenses. He is charged once again with drug-related offenses, this time for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances (Count One), possessing with intent to distribute marijuana, cocaine, oxycodone, and Alprazolam (Count 25), plus unlawfully possessing a firearm both in furtherance of that drug-trafficking crime (Count 26) and as a prior convicted felon (Count 28). Continuing to distribute drugs in the community evinces Defendant's dangerousness. That is compounded by Defendant's possession of firearms as a convicted felon, not to mention possessing them to further the illicit distribution of harmful substances.

Defendant's persistent drug use and lack of stable employment are also problematic. Indeed, Defendant's sister contradicted Defendant's assertion that he worked for his brother's business. Rather, according to her, Defendant's brother merely helped Defendant occasionally when Defendant needed money. Defendant's lack of legitimate income magnifies the risk that he would continue illegal activity if released.

But Defendant also has an alarming pattern of violating previous conditions of release, probation, and deferred adjudication, including by committing new violations of law. This appears to be the case even with the pending federal drug-distribution and firearms charges, which arise out of Defendant's alleged conduct on December 19, 2024. That date falls only a few months after Defendant was sentenced to a ten-year term of deferred adjudication for a state-law felony offense of possessing a controlled substance. This overlap indicates that Defendant disregarded the basic restriction that he refrain from committing new crimes, as a condition of his deferred adjudication, and did so by repeating (or even escalating) the same illegal conduct. There is no reason to think that Defendant would behave any differently if he were released by this Court.

Having failed to respect prior conditions of release, probation, or deferred adjudication, the Court has no assurance that Defendant would abide by any conditions designed to ensure that he refrain from committing new and dangerous crimes if released pending trial. It is therefore ORDERED that Defendant Victor Norris Ellison be DETAINED pending trial.

As stated at the hearing, however, the Court will allow Defendant to request reconsideration upon receiving documents that the Government failed to provide in advance of the detention hearing. This opportunity to have a new hearing is not intended to suggest what the result would be.

Part IV - Directions Regarding Detention

The defendant is remanded to the custody of the Attorney General or to the Attorney General's designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant must be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility must deliver the defendant to a United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

Date: June 3, 2025


U.S. Magistrate Judge